Of Interest to Women

ART OF WRAPPING BUNDLES.

Wrapping and tying parcels is so simple that every woman ought to be able to do it properly, having it look as though done by an expert. There is really no excuse for the sloppy, loose bundles one sees being carried, for even if the contents cannot be put into a box they can be made firm before the outer covering is put on. One of the fundamental principles of wrapping is firmness, and without it nothing trim can be done.

Every household should have in it two balls of twine, one fairly stout for heavy parcels and the other fine for light ones. It costs very little to buy a few sheets of white wrapping paper that sometimes may be worth more than one paid in effect gained for a gift, or whatever is to be carried. Heavy brown paper is also essential, and in families where there are descendants of frugal New Englanders every bit of wrapping paper that comes in from the shops is carefully folded and put away to do up other parcels. This economy sometimes saves ever buying a piece. String is saved in the same way.

White tissue paper is so seldom required that that which comes from the shops in gowns, etc., is usually sufficient, and frequently it is not mussed at all. That, too, should be folded lightly, not to crease it, and be put away by itself.

It is impossible to lay down hard and fast rules on parcel wrapping, but there are certain things which when observed will make for a neat outside unless the wrapper is very clumsy.

It is desirable always when practicable to put all things to be done up in a box first. This gives a firm, square foundation that makes putting on the paper easy. Even then people sometimes fail. The proper method is to have the edges of the paper neat and square, and put the box in the middle. Then lay first one side and then the other over the box, and if the string is put on them it will aid in the operation. In that case tie a slip knot, put the string over the paper that is folded and draw the cord tight. This will hold the paper in place while the ends are being closed. To do this in the best way press the paper at the top down first. Then put first one side and then the other over, turning it so that the bottom of the end of the paper lies in an envelope point. Lastly, turn up this bottom point and put the string about it. You will have a professional-looking parcel if you have made the turns at the end all right.

The same general idea is followed in doing up a bundle, though firmness is the principal thing to be remembered there. It is also then the greatest possible help to put the cord around as soon as the paper is first folded, for it holds all firm as the rest of the wrapper proceeds.

Contrary to the general idea, it is sometimes better to do a very soft thing in quite stiff paper, for the firm outside will prevent the contents from mussing so much. For instance, a woman a few days ago was obliged to carry a little Liberty satin skirt, and had no box for it. Instead of using white or soft brown paper she got the stiffest she could find, folded the skirt and did it up squarely, and the stiff outside protected it almost as much as a box would have, and was easier to carry than a soft parcel would have been.

In doing up a heavy parcel the string, when it is put about, should always be knotted into every cross strand it passes; then if the cord should break, there is no danger of the bundle falling to pieces, or unwrapping, for the many knots will hold it, except where in the one place it gave.

No gift, however trifling, should ever be sent out without being most attractively wrapped. Narrow ribbon is better than cord for this and should end in a flowing bowknot instead of a hard knot. The expense of this is very small and the difference in effect is enormous.

Sealing a small parcel is pretty when the sender's crest or monogram and white wax are used. A girl who does up parcels most artistically always uses ribbon, and if the box be a little longer than wide she does not cross it in the middle but nearer to one end. There she ties a thick bowknot and just beside it, over the ribbon, she drops white wax and stamps it with her signet.

THE STORY OF THE CHEST.

Writing on "The Evolution of the Chest," in the Delineator, N. Hudson Moore gives a mass of information in regard to this useful article of furniture, which is interesting to others than collectors. "Beginning in Italy," she says, "where elegance and beauty flourished long before they reached the ruder peoples of northern Europe, we find the chest was a necessity in every household. The earliest bank of deposit instituted for the accommodation of private merchants was at Barcelona in 1401; so it can be readily seen what an important article a chest was. Like almost everything else of Italian origin, these carved chests were extremely beautiful, whether of the Gothic period or of the more sumptuous Renaissance and later. But while these chests are interesting in every way, and to be bought in this country, since it is known that we are becoming the collectors of the world, it is with homelier and less ornate articles of this class that our interest chiefly centres. When the Pilgrim Fathers and Mothers packed their scanty belongings and stowed them away in the hold of the Mayflower, their goods were mostly contained in chests, stout ones, no doubt, and, I think we can say, entirely guiltless of carving. These chests for use in traveling were called 'ship chests' or 'standards,' and were simple, box-like affairs with locks and no legs, and often with handles."

The first step in the evolution of the chest occurred when a drawer was added, and from this point Mrs. Moore traces very interestingly and with the aid of many illustrations the successive stages in the development of the chest, by the addition of drawer upon drawer and of legs, to its highest expression in the chest-on-chest of the eighteenth century, after which it merged into the bureau.

LINGERIE HAT LATEST FASHION.

Among the dozens of lovely hats which the season is offering, the lingerie model is among the most stunning and becoming of all. Its simplicity and daintiness are exactly what appeal to women, for it is nothing but exquisite embroidery or lace, with a bit of ribbon or some dainty flowers tucked snugly away in a place where it just gives the proper effect. They are just suited to the dainty frocks which the modists are turning out, and no other hat could possibly give the effect that these do. They are made up in colors to match the gown and some are heavily laden with dainty flowers. Ribbons also constitute much of the decoration which they display.

The Charlotte Corday hat is very like the lingerie model, both having a tendency to flop over the face. There are many women who cannot wear these hats at all and these, of course, cannot be in the height of fashion. They are decidedly childish-looking, but give a most piquant appearance to young and pretty women. The large bow deftly tied is sometimes the sole trimming and they are placed directly in the middle of the front. Black velvet is the prettiest, especially on a hat of white lace or chiffon. A pretty model is shown of black Chantilly lace and about the crown are a spray of dainty rosebuds of a deep red color. Red ribbon is also used with these underneath the brim, and this sort of hat would be extremely becoming to a brunette of pronounced type.—Newark Advertiser.

The pleated skirt is very appropriate for walking.

Several of the new shirt waist suits are cut on sailor lines.

The morning gowns are of serge, linen, lightweight tweed, cotton or the new pongee.

Linens, plain, embroidered and inset with heavy lace, appear to cover every possible want.

Fashion is certainly exploiting the popular shirt waist suit in every possible direction.

Lingerie frocks are always appropriate for little girls, and this year they are extremely smart in every detail.

Softer goods are used for the afternoon gowns. Voile, taffeta silk, colienne, handkerchief linen, and all sheer materials are correct.

The one color arrangement which is demanding such extensive attention finds favor in the eyes of those women who are sure of their colors.

The most prominent factor in the advancing styles is the decided difference shown in the treatment of morning and of afternoon gowns also.

Scarfs of ostrich feathers in salad green, or in blue, shaded from dark in the centre to light at the ends are much worn in Paris and are becoming to some women.

Used alike for automobile wraps and for gowns for morning and afternoon wear, the wardrobe that has no linen garment this year will be hopelessly out of date.

So large has the foreign population of East London now become that even the official notices outside the police station have to be printed in Yiddish as well as English.

PLAN TO GIVE NITROGEN TO THE SOIL.

Dry Cultures Which Produce It Now Shipped to Farmers by the Department of Agriculture.

An interesting and very instructive pamphlet has been issued by the Department of Agriculture on the value to the soils of the country of leguminous vegetables, or those which bear edible beans. It seems, according to the work to which reference has been made, that they play a very important part in the general scheme of fertility, although for a long period their value has been questioned, and by some scientists repudiated.

Nitrogen being the most important element in crop production, the primary object in investigating the conditions which appertain in plant culture is to determine the most practical manner of supplying nitrogen to the growing plants without detracting from the other elementary qualities of the soil. Plants of the leguminous family, when grown in contact with certain bacteria, form upon their roots small nodules, known as "nitrogen knots." These knots play an important part in supplying the plants with nitrogen, which is gathered from the air.

The experiments of the Department have been, therefore, directed so as to ascertain and devise some practical method of bringing about the artificial introduction of the necessary organisms into soils which were naturally devoid of them, and at the same time attempt to reconcile the vast amount of conflicting evidence regarding the exact nature of the organism, where the nitrogen is fixed, and similar problems.

A process was finally discovered by which dry cultures of the nitrogen-producing bacteria were made and preserved, and these are now packed and shipped to any part of the world. The Department of Agriculture is prepared to send instructions in their use to farmers.—Washington Star.

Unwonted Luxury.

When the old house which had belonged to Squire Potter in the days of his youth was bought by Sam White, of Potterville, and made over into a hotel, the proprietor was determined that all his guests should appreciate their good fortune.

One day he showed a dry-goods runner, who stopped over three trains in Potterville, the best room in the house.

"You can have this room for to-night, seeing the house isn't full," he said, somewhat grudgingly, and stood in the doorway waiting for a word of praise.

None came, and when the young man carelessly threw his coat over one chair and placed his hat on the table and let his umbrella rattle down to the floor, Mr. White felt the time for a word of remonstrance had come.

"See here," he said, with dignity, "There's a cluzet where you can put those things out o' sight. I guess you aren't much used to dadoed rooms, nor yet rooms with landscape paper on 'em, young man."—Youth's Companion.

After Fair Warning.

Senator Deboe, of Kentucky, tells an interesting story concerning a school teacher in his State who was also a preacher. He loved horses and dogs and he was the owner of a trotter with a good record for speed. One Friday afternoon before dismissing the school he addressed the boys thus:

"Now, boys, I suppose you know that there will be some horse racing to-morrow. Now, don't you go to the races. The race track is no place for boys. But, boys, if you do go to the races don't do any betting. It is not right to wager money on horses. But boys, if you do go and you do bet, mind what I tell you—bet on Deacon Abernathy's mare. This is a straight tip."

And the mare won, too. She was the old preacher school teacher's thoroughbred under another name.—Kansas City Star.

A Side Show by Bangs.

John Kendrick Bangs loves music, and for a preference Wagner's operas take first rank. How well he knows them and how closely he follows the music was illustrated the other night at one of the concerts on the New York Theatre Roof, when Mr. Damrosch's orchestra was playing the "Ride of the Valkyries."

The humorist was holding his eyeglass case in his hand when the leader tapped on his music rack for the band's attention, and with the first stroke of his baton Mr. Bangs began to beat time on the palm of his left hand with the little leather case. Never once through the long and difficult score did he fail to catch the beat at the proper moment, and when the number was ended he slipped the case back into his pocket with the air of one who had really done something well.—New York Press.

Blue Racer Killed in Ohio.

A snake, of the blue racer species, was discovered on the farm of William Cody, near here, yesterday.

The snake was killed by a number of boys and measured eight feet in length and six inches around the body. It is the largest ever seen in this section.—New Dover Correspondence Cleveland Leader.

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS

STRAWBERRY COCKTAILS.

Cut choice strawberries, thoroughly chilled, in halves or quarters. Mix with a combination of fruit juices, lemon, orange, pineapple, etc., and a little sugar. Pour over the berries disposed in cocktail glasses. Serve very cold (often they are surrounded with crushed ice) as a first course at luncheon.

SCOTCH SCONES.

Sift together three cups of [illegible] oatmeal, one of wheat flour and two teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Add a teaspoonful of salt. Scald two cups of sweet milk and stir into it two tablespoonfuls of butter and one of sugar. Make a hollow in the flour and oatmeal, and when the butter is melted stir into the meal. Mix to a soft dough, turn out on a well-floured board and roll lightly and quickly into a sheet about an eighth of an inch thick. Cut out in circles and bake on a hot griddle, preferably soapstone. Turn as soon as the lower side is done to a rich brown, and brown the other side. Serve hot with butter.

FRUIT SALAD.

Select the smallest pineapples, cut them one-third from the top, and scoop them out almost entirely. Peel three nectarine oranges, remove all the thin skins, and with a sharp knife cut them in small pieces. Peel and take out the seeds of two pounds of hothouse grapes. Put all these fruits in a bowl. Squeeze the juice of two large oranges in another bowl, and add to it half pound of powdered sugar, three tablespoonfuls of finely cracked ice; mix well. Fill up each pineapple with the fruits and pour over the dressing, reserving a few grapes to decorate the cream. Beat very stiff one quart and a pint of good fresh cream. When stiff, add to it half a pound of powdered sugar and one gill of maraschino; mix gently. Put the cream in a high, round fruit-dish, and put the remaining grapes around the cream. Procure some fresh moss, and put it in plenty of cold water the previous day to make it very green. When ready to dress the fruit, shake the moss in a napkin and then arrange it on a round tray. Place the pineapples around the bowl of cream, and serve very cold.

HINTS FOR THE HOUSEKEEPER

Lemon juice and salt will remove iron rust.

A hot lemonade taken before going to bed will cure a cold on the lungs.

A few drops of kerosene added to the starch makes ironing easier and lends a gloss to the linen.

A sofa pillow filled with sweet clover gives a delicious and refreshing odor. Many prefer clover to a pine filling.

The old idea of putting oilcloth under the washstand cover is now adopted for doilies on highly-polished tables.

Lemon juice added to fruit juices that do not jell readily, such as cherry, strawberry, etc., will cause them to jell.

Hot water and soap generally remove grease spots. If fixed by long standing, use either chloroform or naphtha.

Salt sprinkled over a low coal fire will greatly aid in curling feathers. Shake the plumes constantly and do not hold them too near the fire.

Baking-powder tins should not be recklessly thrown away. They are useful in a number of ways, as for example, moulding small jellies, creams or rice desserts.

A new method of bleaching almonds is to soak them overnight in cold water. This is said to be an improvement on the usual method of throwing them into boiling water.

The appearance of meat pie crusts, and in fact almost any pastry, is much improved by brushing with a mixture made by beating the yolk of an egg in two tablespoonfuls of milk.

Flies hate the odor of kerosene, it is said, and if the outside of a screen door be rubbed with the oil, the opening of the door will not be followed by an inrush of the winged pests.

Perhaps it is not generally known that left-overs from a gelatine dish can be remoulded. The jelly should be warmed just enough to melt, poured into a mould, and placed on ice.

Alcohol sometimes causes bluish stains to appear on the lamp of a chafing dish or teakettle. Simply rubbing with a cloth moistened with ammonia is said to remove the discoloration.

There are seven peers in the British House of Lords whose combined ages reach 623 years.

HORTICULTURE

POULTRY IN THE ORCHARD.

The orchard may well serve two purposes—one the production of fruit and the other as a range or feeding ground for poultry. The fowls will destroy many insects which would injure the trees and the fruit, and they are no mean factor toward enriching the land.

TRUMPET VINES.

The trumpet creeper, with its showy trumpet blossoms of orange and scarlet, and its vigorous stem and leaves, always wins favor as a hardy, climbing vine. It has been used with admirable effect on many two-storied houses, notable on one fine old farm house with a wide veranda and an upper balcony. —Garden Magazine.

INJURED PEACH TREES.

Where peach buds have been killed by the cold it is advisable to cut back into the two or three year old wood. If the tree was cut back last year make the new cut below the old one, taking off the top growth. This will induce a new growth, which will be in shape for bearing next year. This will result in a new head being formed. The more the wood is discolored the further back should be the cutting.

FLOWERS ON BUSHES.

We want shrubs in every home place in America, because they furnish more flowers for less money and care, and for a longer period of years, than any other plant, says the Garden Magazine. True, some trees have big flowers, and lots of them, but they are higher up in the air, while a bush is just where you can see it and smell it. Shrubs are more permenant than "perennials," and they are nothing like the bother annuals are. You plant trees for posterity, but shrubs for yourself also. You get flowers the second year, if you pay a decent price, and if you go away for a summer the place does not look like an abandoned home. The plain truth is that a home without shrubbery is all wrong. Shrubbery is just as necessary to a place as clothing to a man. Nine times out of ten the straight line where a building meets the ground should be hidden by shrubs.

HAVE A HOTBED.

Every year demonstrates more and more the importance of the hotbed in scientific gardening. Even on a small scale, early vegetables cannot be successfully raised without it. Its cost, in truth, is out of all proportion to the good it does. Though occupying a space only ten feet square, it will produce wonders. Several thousand of tomato or cabbage plants can then be started for early transplanting. With the addition of a few cold frame sashes one is therefore able to defy the fickle cold of late winter or early spring. Indeed, it is pretty safe to say that the use of the cold frame is more desirable than that of the hotbed. It reduces the cost of raising vegetables to a minimum, and even the snows of late March cannot injure plants that are protected by a properly constructed cold frame, while all through April and May it renders them perfectly secure. No one, not having them, however, should make an extensive outlay in cold frames and hotbeds at the outset. Rather, a few feet of one or the other should be constructed each year. The cost is then divided up, and eventually no more are built than there is actual need for.—Fred O. Sibley, in The Epitomist.

BLACKBERRIES.

The Eldorado is of good quality and quite productive. The Snyder occupies about the same that Ben Davis holds among apples, but by good culture and careful pruning to avoid too heavy a set of fruit the quality can be much improved. There is good demand for nice blackberries, and plenty of room for the man who will take pains to produce fruit of good quality. The seashore resorts are crowded at the time this fruit ripens, and much can be disposed of there at fancy prices if one is so situated as to take advantage of this trade. Often, however, a few quarts of berries that have wilted a trifle and turned a little stale will give a retail dealer all that he can sell through the afternoon and stock to commence on the next morning; the same man could dispose of several crates if those stale berries were out of the way and some perfectly fresh fruit given him in their place.

While it may not pay to grow raspberries and blackberries in the wholesale way that strawberries, peaches and apples are being produced, a great deal of good fruit can be marketed at good prices if placed before customers in a fresh condition; no need of mentioning the advantage of clean, new baskets, for surely no one uses anything else now when baskets can be had for one-third of a cent.—J. T. Molumphy, in American Cultivator.